

Applic. No. 09/927,545
Amdt. dated April 14, 2008
Reply to Office action of January 14, 2008

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Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-15 remain in the application.

In item 3 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 1-5, 7-9, and 11-16 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Someno et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,050,194 B1) (hereinafter "Someno") under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1 and 9 call for, *inter alia*:

enabling the apparatus for switching an error mode on or off via the input unit, checking whether the error mode is switched on via the input unit, and producing an output signal

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in a method step and outputting the output signal as at least one of an optical or an acoustic signal if the error mode is switched on and not outputting the output signal if the error mode is not switched on.

Independent claims 1 and 9 are recite a method and device controlling a printing press offering the opportunity to switch an error mode on or off and only outputting an output signal if the error mode is switched on. The output signal can be an optical or acoustic signal.

Someno discloses a printing apparatus such as an inkjet printer (column 1, line 17). The printer is disclosed as a printer which is able to print both standard size printing mediums such as sheets of paper and large-sized printing mediums such as a role of machine paper (column 1, lines 22 to 26). The second printing mode is also referred to as continuous printing. If the continuous printing mode is selected, an application program, which controls the printer, supplies print data divided in the plurality of pages (column 1, lines 30 to 32). Someno discloses that if the continuous printing mode is chosen there are boundaries between adjoining pages that have an undesirably low picture quality (column 2, lines 3 to 4). Someno discloses a technique that prevents the picture quality from being lower on a boundary between

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adjoining pages (column 2, lines 12 to 16). Someno discloses if the continuous mode is not chosen, all pages chosen for printing are processed by halftone processing independently (column 2, lines 58 to 62). The halftone processing includes an error diffusion method (column 3, lines 5 to 9).

The error diffusion method is not an error mode, as recited in the claims of the instant application, instead it is a technique for removing picture errors. Someno does not disclose an error mode, which can be displayed or reported to a user by an optical or acoustical signal. All the error diffusion method affects is a certain kind of halftone processing which is also disclosed in column 4, lines 32-44. The error storage for the error diffusion method of the halftone processing is not used if the continuous mode is selected. However, even when the standard printing mode is chosen, no optical or acoustic signal is output, only the standard printing is performed.

With respect to the optical and acoustical signal the Examiner refers to column 6, lines 20 to 32. It is respectfully noted that this paragraph only relates to a computer program, which enables high quality image processing in accordance with the invention of Someno. The computer program can be stored on computer-readable media like CD ROMs, etc. The computer

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medium can either store the computer program itself or a variety of equivalent signals to such a computer program. However, nowhere in lines 20-32 of column does Someno disclose that an error mode can be switched on or off and that if the error mode is switched on an acoustic or optical signal is output to a user.

The standard printing mode, which the Examiner considers to be an error mode is not an error mode. This is because if the standard printing mode is chosen in Someno, no errors are output, especially no signals representing errors are output. Instead, the pages of a print job are just processed and printed on paper. Therefore, the standard printing mode in Someno is certainly not an error mode, as recited in the claims of the instant application.

As seen from the above-given remarks, the reference does not show enabling the apparatus for switching an error mode on or off via the input unit, checking whether the error mode is switched on via the input unit, and producing an output signal in a method step and outputting the output signal as at least one of an optical or an acoustic signal if the error mode is switched on and not outputting the output signal if the error mode is not switched on, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. Someno discloses a standard printing mode.

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Someno does not disclose checking whether an error mode is switched on and outputting an output signal based on the error mode. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application which recites, enabling the apparatus for switching an error mode on or off via the input unit, checking whether the error mode is switched on via the input unit, and producing an output signal in a method step and outputting the output signal as at least one of an optical or an acoustic signal if the error mode is switched on and not outputting the output signal if the error mode is not switched on.

In item 5 on page 6 of the Office action, claims 6 and 10 have been rejected as being obvious over Someno (U.S. Patent No. 7,050,194 B1) under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Since claims 1 and 9 are allowable over Someno, dependent claims 6 and 10 are allowable over Someno as well.

Since independent claims 1 and 9 are allowable over Someno, dependent claims 2-5, 7-8, and 11-16 are allowable over Someno as well.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 or 9. Claims 1 and 9 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and

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since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claims 1 or 9, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-16 are solicited.

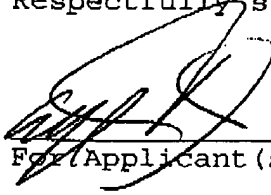
In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

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Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect
to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner
Greenberg Sterner LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicant(s)

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